

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 00354 131401Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
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INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 354

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECIN EAID XL NS NE US
SUBJ: SURINAM AND CARIBBEAN COOPERATION

1. IN RESPONSE TO DUTCH EMBASSY QUERY REGARDING U.S.
VIEWS ON SURINAM ROLE IN CARIBBEAN GROUP, IN CONTEXT OF
ARRIVAL MARCH 12 OF DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION MINISTER DE KONING FOR TALKS WITH GOS
ON FUTURE OF DUTCH AID PROGRAM HERE, AMBASSADOR MARCH 10
TOLD DUTCH AMBASSADOR THAT U.S. BELIEVED THAT SURINAM
SHOULD BE INVITED TO NEXT MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN GROUP
BY THE WORLD BANK BUT THAT QUESTION OF SURINAM'S
PARTICIPATION WAS, INsofar AS USG IS CONCERNED, ONE FOR
GOS TO DECIDE FOR ITSELF. AMBASSADOR OUTLINED IMPORESSIONS
WE HAD RECEIVED OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS FROM GOS
LEADERS THAT THEY SAW THEIR POSITION AS MORE CLOSELY
CONNECTED WITH THE CONTINENTAL POWERS OF SOUTH AMERICA
THAN WITH THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND DID NOT WANT TO
BE CONSIDEREDAS ONE OF THE LATTER.

2. DUTCH AMBASSADOR AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THIS
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ANALYSIS OF THE GOS POSITION, HE SAID, BUT NOTED
THAT GON WOULD NEVERTHELESS TAKE A MORE POSITIVE
ATTITUDE OF ENCOURAGING SURINAM TO ASSOCIATE
WITH THE CARIBBEAN GROUP, IN THE BELIEF THAT ANY AND
ALL TIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AND/OR GROUPS WOULD BE
A CONTRIBUTION TO EASING THE OVERDEPENDENCE OF
SURINAM ON THE NETHERLANDS FOR ASSISTANCE. HE

THANKED AMBASSADOR FOR OUTLINING U.S. VIEW AND
APPRECIATED FACT THAT MOTIVATION OF GON POLICY WAS
DIFFERENT FROM THE U.S.

3. COMMENT: WE THOUGHT IT WELL TO MAKE THIS
PRESENTATION BEFORE DE KONING TALKS BEGAN
BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY THAT DUTCH, IN PURSUING THEIR
OWN ADVOCACY OF SURINAM'S MEMBERSHIP IN CARIBBEAN
GROUP, MIGHT, EITHER INADVERTANTLY OR BECAUSE OF
MISUNDERSTANDING, REPRESENT THEIR VIEW AS BEING THAT
OF THE U.S. AS WELL. IF OPPORTUNITY ARISES IN
WASHINGTON, IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR THE DEPARTMENT
TO MAKE CLEAR TO THE NETHERLANDS EMBASSY THERE THAT
IT IS NOT THE USG INTENTION TO TRY TO PERSUADE
SURINAM TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE CARIBBEAN GROUP, BUT
ONLY TO ASSURE THAT THE WAY IS OPEN FOR SURINAM
TO DO SO IF IT CONCLUDES THAT SUCH IS IN ITS OWN
INTERESTS.
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